

# REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

TO THE

**HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,**

FOR THE

**HALF-YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th, 1914.**



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# REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

TO THE

### *HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,*

*For the Half-year ending June 30th, 1914.*

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GENTLEMEN,

The Local Government Board require that when a Medical Officer of Health resigns his appointment in the middle of a year, he shall prepare a report, on the lines of his annual report, for that portion of the year during which he has acted. I have pleasure, therefore, in placing the following report before you.

**Area.**—The area of the whole district is 196,188 acres. It is sub-divided into the following sub-districts:—

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Area.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
Allendale sub-district ...	51,833 acres ...	4972.
Bywell „ ...	46,638 „ ...	7074.
Chollerton „ ...	50,531 „ ...	5456.
Hexham „ ...	47,807 „ ...	4667.

**Births.**—The number of births registered during the past half-year has been 210, of which 101 were males, and 109 were females. Of these, there were 10 illegitimate, the large number of which is a discreditable feature in the vital statistics of many rural districts. The birth-rate is low, viz., 18·8 per thousand.

**Deaths.**—The number of deaths for the half-year is 130, just an average number. 61 were deaths of males, and 69 those of females. The crude death-rate is therefore 11·6 per thousand. This includes 14 deaths of children under twelve months, giving an infant mortality rate of 66 per thousand births registered.

**Infectious Diseases.**—Including cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, there have been notified 76 cases of notifiable infectious disease, of which 8 were cases of Diphtheria, 11 of Erysipelas, 37 of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Enteric, 16 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 3 other forms of Tuberculosis.

*Diphtheria*.—Of the 8 cases, 1 occurred at Riding Mill, 1 at Shotley, 1 at Corbridge, 1 at Ovingham, and 4 in the neighbourhood of Wark. Fortunately, none of these cases resulted in a fatal issue.

*Erysipelas*.—The 11 cases of Erysipelas were distributed as follows:—1 at Allenheads, 1 at Matfen, 1 at Wylam, 1 at Horsley, 3 at Ovington, and 4 at Stocksfield. As I have pointed out on previous occasions, this disease is in evidence every year in the neighbourhood of Ovington, but, fortunately, is not very apt to take an epidemic character. None of these cases proved fatal.

*Scarlet Fever*.—The 37 cases of Scarlet Fever were distributed fairly evenly throughout the four sub-districts, there having been 8 in the Allendale sub-district, 10 in the Bywell sub-district, 12 in the Chollerton sub-district, and 7 in the Hexham sub-district. In the Allendale sub-district, 4 were at Haydon Bridge, 3 at Sparty Lea, and 1 at Allenheads. In the Bywell sub-district, 1 was at Wylam, 1 at Newton, 2 at Stocksfield, 2 at Ovington, and 4 at Riding Mill. In the Chollerton sub district, 2 were at Acomb, 6 at Wall, 3 at Chollerton, and 1 at Simonburn. In the Hexham sub-district, all the 7 cases occurred at Corbridge. I think the policy of the Council in the near future should be that of the Urban Council of Prudhoe, viz :—Where proper isolation cannot be secured at home, to empower the Medical Officer of Health to obtain a magistrate's order for the removal of the patient. In a short time, the result of this will be that your Medical Officer will meet with no opposition to the removal of such cases as he deems necessary. Whilst writing on this subject, I must again revert to the need there is in your area for greater facilities for disinfection. In a neighbouring area this is done by the sewer attendant.

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TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during first half of Year 1914 and previous Years.  
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of residents registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	At all Ages.
			Num-ber.	Rate.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
1909 ...	28,142	734		26.1	333	13.6	3	7	77	104.9	387 13.3
1910 ...	20,368	459		22.5	258	12.6	2	11	28	61	267 13.1
1911 ...	21,921	439	439	20.02	250	11.4	5	25	41	93.4	270 12.3
1912 ...	22,045	450	452	20.5	261	11.8	3	21	34	75.2	279 12.6
1913 ...	22,169	417	419	18.9	282	11.3	9	20	30	71.6	293 12.3
1914 ...	22,293	210		18.8	130	11.6			14	66.6	130 11.6

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) { 196,881.775.

Total population at all ages, 21,890  
Number of inhabited houses, 4972  
Average number of persons per house, 4.4

At Census, 1911  
(cf. Census, Vol. V.)

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the first half of Year 1914.  
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases Notified										Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			Total Cases Reported to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years								Allendale. Bryell. Chollerton. Hexham.	1633. 1711	13		
		Under 15 years	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards						
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) ...	8	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	3	4	1	2		
Erysipelas ...	11	...	...	1	1	4	...	...	110	...	...	...		
Scarlet Fever ...	38	1	11	20	3	1	2	...	910	12	7	11		
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	16	...	...	1	3	8	4	...	6	7	1	...		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	...		
Totals ...	77	1	13	29	7	15	10	2	1633	1711		13		

(Edgewell Isolation Hospital, Prudhoe (outside the district).

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sandtoria, &c.

Lightwater Smallpox Hospital (in the district).

No Sanatorium Treatment provided for Phthisis by the Council.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during  
first half of year 1914.

Name of District—Hexham Rural.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1					1			
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	1			1				
Influenza ... ..	2						1	1	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	10					2	6	2	
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	1		1						
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	2					1	1		
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	13					1	6	6	
Apoplexy ... ..	8						5	3	
Meningitis ... ..	2	1		1					
Organic Heart Disease ... ..	19						4	15	
Bronchitis ... ..	14						1	13	
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	10	2					2	6	
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	1					1			
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ... ..	1					1			
Senile Decay ... ..	13							13	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ..	5						3	2	
Other accidents and diseases of Preg- nancy and Parturition ... ..	1					1			
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, including Premature Birth ...	9	7	1	1					
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	3	1				2			
Suicide ... ..	1					1			
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	12	2		1		1	1	7	
Totals ... ..	130	14	2	3	1	2	16	26	66

## TABLE IV.

## Hexham Rural District.

## Infant Mortality, first half of year 1914.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages  
under 1 year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 mths & under 6 months.	6 mths & under 9 months.	9 mths & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Whooping Cough ...							1			1
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )						1				1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...							1	1		2
Congenital Malformations...	1				1					1
Premature Birth ...	3	1			4					4
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	2				2					2
Other Causes ...			1		1	1				2
Violence ...								1		1
	6	1	1		8	2	2	2		14

Nett Births in the Half-year—Legitimate, 200; Illegitimate, 10.



*Sewerage, Sewer Extensions, and Drainage.*—I have dealt with this subject in considerable detail in recent reports, so that it is only necessary to mention here the improvements carried out during the past half-year, which are as follows :—

For the Townships of Acomb and Oakwood, a scheme is being carried out by Messrs. Henderson & Wilson, under the supervision of Mr. Murphy, M.I.C.E., Morpeth, which will abate a nuisance at Oakwood.

The Broomley sewerage scheme is now nearly completed. A large number of house connections have been made, chiefly on the Painshawfield Estate and at New Ridley.

At Barrasford and Gunnerton, sewerage works are being constructed, also by Messrs. Henderson & Wilson. At Gunner-ton, sewers are also being put down for premises on the north side of the burn.

At Acomb, a Local Government Board Inquiry has been held with reference to the scheme here.

At Horsley, the work of providing sewers and sewage disposal works is nearly completed.

At Allendale, the Local Government Board Inquiry has been held with reference to works of sewage disposal, and also the provision of some new sewers. For this purpose land has been bought by the river side. The object of the present scheme is to link up existing sewers, and thus do away with several isolated little disposal works.

*Water Supply.*—In this connection it is urgently necessary that something should be done to augment the present supply at Allendale Town, where there are many complaints as to the scarcity existing at present. The Council are at present in communication with several owners with a view to improving the present supply.

The Corbridge South Fell scheme has now received the sanction of the Local Government Board, and will doubtless be proceeded with without undue loss of time.

A scheme to supply Great Whittington village has now been under consideration for many years. Mr. Murphy, Civil Engineer, Morpeth, has this matter in hand, and I earnestly hope that the Committee will stick to this business until it is carried to a satisfactory issue.

*Closet Accommodation.*—This is mainly in the form of privies with a very large ashpit attached. Such a type of closet is now absolutely condemned by all sanitarians, and one of the tasks confronting the Council, in the larger villages at least, is to discourage the building of these structures, and, wherever possible, try to have them replaced by the much more sanitary W.C.'s. In some villages where the water supply is none too abundant at present, this might lead to its having to be augmented, but the extra cost so incurred would be well spent money.

*Scavenging.*—This remains in exactly the same condition as before, that condition being as unsatisfactory as it can possibly be. The occupier is the person responsible for scavenging his own premises, and a glance round any one of our villages, will, at any time, show how utterly faulty such a system is. The Council have, however, duly considered this question, and decided to meet the case by sending out circulars to occupiers, urging them to attend more regularly to the scavenging. This has, no doubt, a temporary good effect, but in my opinion, it entirely fails to meet the case. Good scavenging is an absolutely fundamental and essential duty in the management of local affairs, and without it efficient sanitation is impossible. I regard this as the most pressing need of the district.

*Slaughter Houses.*—There are 31 slaughter houses in our district, very few of which reach the ideal aimed at in the model byelaws. There will be little improvement here until the Council adopt and enforce, as far as possible, the model slaughter house byelaws of the Local Government Board, a course of action which I have advocated for years.

*Isolation Hospitals.*—The Edgewell Isolation Hospital is now practically in constant use. For the six months ending the 30th June, 1914, no fewer than 47 cases have been treated in the institution, with only one death. Of these, 11 came from the Hexham Rural District, while 36 were from the Prudhoe Urban District. As the Council know, it is intended to build a separate hospital for the Rural District, near Thornbrough. I only wish that the public in the Rural District area followed the example of the Prudhoe miners, and made much more use of the hospital. The Prudhoe Council made it known, that in cases where the Medical Officer of Health deemed it necessary to remove a patient for the safety of other members of a family, or for that of the public generally, they would support him, if the necessity arose, in the getting of a magistrate's order. Similar action on the part of the Hexham Rural District Council, would, I feel sure, have most beneficial results in the same direction.

*Housing and Town Planning Act.*—97 visits have been made under this act. The following table shows the conditions found.

# Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

Tabular Statement as required by Article 5.

Sanitary District.	No. of dwelling houses inspected.	No. of dwelling houses which, on inspection, considered unfit for human habitation, wholly or partly.	No. of representations made to local authority with a view to closing orders being made.	Closing Orders.		No. of dwellings in which defects remedied without closing orders being made.	No. of dwellings put into fit state for human habitation after closing orders made.	General character of defects found.	Any other information.
				No. of orders made.	No. of houses vacated at end of each year in consequence.				
Parishes or Sub-Districts.									
Corbridge	97							19 defective yard surfaces. 20 open ashpits. 3 bad spouting. 5 dampness. 2 soil abutting against walls. 3 W.C.'s required.	

GENTLEMEN,

It only remains for me now, through the medium of this last report, to bid you farewell, and to thank the Council, and my fellow-officials, for their kindly consideration at all times.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. C. PENFOLD, M.B.

**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

TO THE  
**HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,**

WITH  
**TABULAR RETURNS OF MORTALITY,**

**JULY—DECEMBER, 1914,**

BY  
***JOHN STEEDMAN,***

M.B., CH.B., L.M., B.HY., D.P.H.

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***FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT,***  
**1914.**

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

TO THE

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

JULY—DECEMBER, 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration a report of the work done in, and sanitary condition of, your district, during the term of my office. As far as possible, I have taken up the threads of connection where my predecessor laid them down, and have also, where possible, made the table of Vital Statistics complete for the whole period of the year.

*Area.*—The area of the district is 196,809 acres, portioned out into four sub-districts, as follows :—

				<i>Population</i> 1911.	<i>Estimated</i> 1914.		
Allendale sub-district	...	51,833 acres	...	4907	...	4945	
Bywell	"	...	46,638 "	...	6992	...	7185
Chollerton	"	...	50,531 "	...	5380	...	5467
Hexham	"	...	47,807 "	...	4608	...	4696
Totals				...	196,809	21,887	22,293

*Births.*—The number of births registered during the *year* is 428, to which 1 has to be added, being supplied by the Registrar-General for correction purposes. The corrected birth-rate is thus 19·5 per thousand. This shows a slight improvement over last year, when it stood at 18·9 per thousand, but is still far from satisfactory. It has been said that the welfare of a nation depends upon the maintenance of a high birth-rate, and this not without reason. According to the view of the Registrar-General, one should expect to find a higher birth-rate in a district chiefly agricultural, such as this is. The number of illegitimate births still remains high—21, and constitutes one of the least pleasant features of the whole matter.

*Deaths.*—The number of deaths registered in the district during the *year* is 250. This gives a crude death-rate of 11·2 per thousand. During the second *half-year*, the number of deaths was 120. This number included 3 of non-residents registered in the district, and are transferable to the districts of residence. Against these are 8 deaths of residents registered elsewhere, and these are to be added to the local number, making 125 in all, and giving a net death-rate of 11·2 per thousand. The transferable



deaths for the first half-year not being available. I regret that I am unable to give the nett death-rate for the whole year. The death-rate shows a slow decline. In 1913 it was 12·3; in 1912, 12·6; in 1911, 12·3; in 1910, 13·1; and in 1909, 13·3 per 1000.

Of the 125 deaths, 70 were of males and 55 of females, whilst 10 were of those under 12 months, giving the very low infant mortality rate of 46·6 per 1000 birth registered. This feature is very satisfactory, when one considers that the average infantile mortality rate for this district during the last five years is 71·4 per 1000 births registered. Of the infant deaths, 1 was due to Meningitis, 1 to Debility, 1 to Premature Birth, 1 to Fire, 1 to Hæmorrhage from Lung, 2 were due to Infective Diarrhœa, and 3 to Convulsions. Of the other deaths registered, 39 were due to transmittable disease; Tuberculosis, 15; Cancer, 19; Scarlet Fever, 1; Whooping Cough, 1; and Diphtheria, 3.

During the whole year, 28 deaths occurred from Tuberculosis, of which 23 were Phthisis, showing that extreme measures are necessary to combat this scourge. With improved sanitation, less crowding, and better social conditions, this disease should be abolished entirely. In this neighbourhood we seem to be lagging behind in the crusade against Tuberculosis. In many of the surrounding counties the machinery of the National Insurance Act is in full operation. Patients are treated either in Sanatoria or in Dispensaries, by Tuberculin or by general treatment, whatever best suits the exigencies of the case. So far we have in this district but small facility for Sanatorium treatment. This needs to be enlarged, and I am pleased to hear that shortly this may be an accomplished fact, but beyond that we have nothing. All sorts of plans are in the "melting pot." The afflicted of the disease grow weary waiting, and in many cases succumb, where possibly prompt and efficient treatment might have helped them. While doing our best to stamp out this disease, one must not lose sight of the urgent, and more crying need, of stamping out the cause, and prevent the spread of infection. The present system of enquiry into this disease is far from perfect. In many instances, the Medical Officer of Health when visiting these cases, is looked upon askance, and personal examination of the patient is seldom welcomed. Indeed, in many cases, the patients have never been informed of the nature of their disease, and to carry out the full requirements of the Tuberculosis Order under these circumstances is well-nigh impossible, and until this enquiry is put upon a better footing, the best results can never be attained.

*Infectious Diseases.*—Unfortunately, the number of Infectious Diseases has been great. The noteworthy feature has been small epidemics in different parts of the district.



During the latter *half-year*, the number notified has been 138, as compared with 77 during the first half of the year. The phenomenally dry summer, followed by excessive rain, has been a contributory factor. There were 33 cases of Diphtheria, 14 cases of Erysipelas, 73 of Scarlet Fever, and 2 of Enteric.

In the Chollerton sub-district, Diphtheria broke out in the latter half of July, and in September, Scarlet Fever was added to this. In spite of prompt closing of schools, and as far as possible isolation and disinfection, these diseases persisted up till end of year, lessening in severity as time progressed. In all, 32 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 8 of Diphtheria, were reported from this district.

In Haydon Bridge district, Scarlet Fever showed itself in beginning of September. Here prompt measures were taken in the matter of school closure, the closure also extending to Sunday Schools and all children's meetings. 10 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified here, affecting in all eight houses.

In Whittonstall district, in November, Scarlet Fever developed, and necessitated similar school measures here as elsewhere. In this locality, up till end of year, 17 cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, and the school is still closed.

Diphtheria has been most prevalent in the Chollerton and Hexham districts, in the former, as before-mentioned, chiefly in Newbrough and Fourstones. In the latter, most of the cases were in Corbridge. The disease showed itself here in August, and resulted in 14 cases. Examination of the scholars in Corbridge schools resulted in 11 carriers being detected, and after removal and isolation of these, matters resumed their normal course, but for one or two sporadic cases, whose origin was mostly assignable elsewhere.

In coping with this epidemicity, it has been brought forcibly home to those interested, the absolute necessity, nay, urgency, for extended hospital accommodation for the district. In many of the houses mentioned above, secondary cases occurred through the primary case not being removed through lack of hospital accommodation. It affords one some pleasurable anticipation to know that plans will shortly be submitted to the Local Government Board for a new hospital, to be situated at Lough Lane, near Corbridge. This will be more central and easy of access than the existing hospital at Prudhoe. The latter building, while partly serving a want, does so only imperfectly, and one looks forward to more perfect hospital administration in the future, with a larger and more perfectly equipped hospital at our disposal.

In connection with Infectious Disease, one naturally associates infection and disinfection. Even where one can remove an infected patient to hospital, the infected clothing and

bedding must at present be left to the amateurish, but usually well meant, attempt at disinfecting, of the occupiers of the dwellings. This largely defeats our attempts at the prevention of Infectious Disease. It is the duty of the sanitary authority to provide efficient means of disinfecting bedding and clothing, and it is to be hoped that in the planning of the new hospital, the authority will not lose sight of the importance of providing means, and personell, for the disinfecting by steam of these articles mentioned. The additional cost would shortly repay itself, in reducing the number of repeat cases in the district.

In a district such as this is, a motor ambulance would be of great service, as at present it is not uncommon for patients to be three or four hours on the road—a most undesirable thing when one has to deal with a patient seriously ill.

*School Closures.*—The following school measures have been deemed advisable during the half-year :—

BINGFIELD, Church School.—Closed from Sept. 17th till Oct. 2nd, on account of Diphtheria.

ALLENHEADS, St. Peter's Council School.—Closed from Oct. 30th till Nov. 19th, on account of Whooping Cough.

NEWBROUGH National School.—Closed from Nov. 10th till Dec. 18th, on account of Scarlet Fever.

WHITTONSTALL National School.—Closed from Nov. 27th till end of year, on account of Scarlet Fever.

HAYDON BRIDGE, Shaftoe Grammar School.—Closed from Dec. 15th till end of year, on account of Scarlet Fever.

On each occasion in which a school has been closed on health grounds, it has been thoroughly fumigated and disinfected before re-opening.

*Sewerage.*—Owing to my short period of office with you, it is impossible for me to deal with this subject in extenso. I shall, therefore, in the present report, deal with matters of the period only, and shall be in a position at a later date to discuss this most important feature of the district in more detail. Indeed, it is the importance of the subject that makes me hesitate till I am more cognisant of the facts, and be able to speak with authority.

BARRASFORD AND GUNNERTON.—This scheme is now completed, and should prove a substantial improvement.

BROOMLEY.—This work has been completed, and steps are now being taken to complete the connections.

ACOMB.—An enquiry has been held here by the Local Government Board, but owing to a question of land, no further development has taken place. It is regrettable that in a scheme

such as this, for the welfare of the population at large of the district, a question of acquiring land should stand in the way, and it is to be hoped that this difficulty will be shortly removed, if necessary, by virtue of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts.

ALLENDALE.—Sanction has been obtained to borrow £1907 for a sewerage scheme here, but this has been hung up in the meantime, to try and get a more extensive scheme promulgated, to include the whole in one, instead of several smaller works.

CORBRIDGE.—At present, the Corbridge sewage scheme is still on paper, and crude sewage still pollutes the river.

HAYDON BRIDGE.—The sewage from the south side of Haydon Bridge is still untreated, and also pours crude sewage into the river.

BROOMHAUGH AND RIDING MILL.—A scheme is now sanctioned, and contract let to Mr. John Carrick, Crossgate Peth, Durham, for the work, which will shortly be commenced. The engineers for the scheme are Messrs. D. Balfour & Sons, of Newcastle.

HORSLEY.—The work here is now completed, and connections are now being made.

OVINGHAM EAST END.—As a result of numerous complaints from residents of this neighbourhood, the sewage works here are to undergo either re-organisation or removal to another site. The engineer, Mr. C. F. Murphy, M.I.C.E., is at present going into the matter. The existing works are only such in name, and the sooner something drastic is done here, the better.

OAKWOOD AND ANICK.—This scheme is nearing completion, and will remove a long-standing nuisance, and source of pollution of certain water supplies.

PRUDHAM AND FRANKHAM.—At this site, three rows of houses are at present without drainage. The owner of these has consented to supply drainage for each of these rows, and to provide additional privy and ashpit accommodation.

At various points along the river, schemes have been taken up, only to be shelved after the publication of the Report of the Sewage Commission. The position does not seem to be fully understood by the various Parochial Committees and Parish Councils. The River Pollution Prevention Act says that no crude sewage must pass into any waterway. The finding of the Sewage Commission limits this to slow flowing rivers, or rivers in which the flow does not bear a certain ratio to the amount of sewage delivered into the stream. The River Pollution Prevention Act has been law since 1876, and still remains in force; the Sewage Commission Report is nothing more than a recommendation, and remains at that.

Under the circumstances, the duty of the Rural Council is to carry out the provisions of the River Pollution Prevention Act. At the present, the debateable point arises between the necessity of amending the sewage schemes in various parts of your district on the one hand, and the advanced price of materials on the other, and to decide which side carries most weight. But one of the changes most necessary in your district, is the substitution of water closets in place of the old-fashioned earth closets or privies. This can only be looked for when measures are taken to deal with the sewage, and not before. Whilst several alterations have been accomplished during the past year, I hope it may be my privilege to report greater progress in this line in the future.

*Water Supply.*—On the whole, the district is well supplied with water, but this last summer has shown the defective parts.

CORBRIDGE SOUTH FELL.—A Local Government Board enquiry has been held here, and a loan of £1880 sanctioned. The contract has been let to Messrs. J. G. Rutter & Sons, Washington Station, Co. Durham, and work is now to be proceeded with. This will prevent a recurrence of such a shortage as took place last summer.

GREAT WHITTINGTON.—An enquiry has been held here, and a loan of £500 granted for carrying out the scheme. This contract is let to Mr. E. L. Jackson, Morpeth, and work is now under way.

ALLENDALE.—An enquiry is to be held here shortly, to sanction the loan of £1000 to carry out a scheme prepared by Mr. J. F. Shield, Allendale, for adding three new springs to the existing supply for Allendale Town and Catton, and also to include the hamlet of Wooley, which at present has no adequate supply at all. The proposed new springs are situated  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles above Allendale Town, and should supply about 34,960 gallons per diem—a substantial addition to the present supply from Park Gates, amounting to about 23,600 gallons. It is to be hoped that the scheme will go through, to provide for the growing district, and also to encourage the new venture of dairying which has been set up at Allendale Station.

ACOMB AND OAKWOOD.—A shortage of water has been experienced at Acomb and Oakwood, and the Parochial Committee is at present seeking means of augmenting the supply.

*Scavenging.* On this point matters remain as before. The onus rests with the occupier of each house to do his own scavenging, a most unsatisfactory procedure. The result of this is that ash-pits are found overflowing everywhere, and, as a rule, are only emptied when compulsion is applied. A glance at the list



of nuisances will illustrate this. In this connection alone, 35 statutory notices have been served—indeed, to keep their receptacles in a sanitary state, one man could well occupy his whole time within the district, and they would still be overflowing when he re-visited them. The Council's bye-laws make the ashpits of a smaller size than heretofore, thereby, if anything, increasing the difficulty. The object of this is doubtless to necessitate the more frequent emptying of them, but the result is that what cannot go into the ashpit is distributed over the ground or yard surfaces. This causes decaying animal or vegetable matter to be lying about what often is the circumscribed playground of many younger children, resulting in deleterious effects to their health, and often leading to a fatal result. I regard the ashpit question as one of the most urgent in the district. Our larger villages should certainly be scavenged, to ensure emptying of the receptacles at regular periods, and thus remove what is regarded by sanitarians as the greatest danger to our public health, and more especially to the infant health. Many difficulties are in the way of this being carried out, chief of which is the hardship of outlying householders having to pay a scavenging rate for which they would receive no benefit. Against this, however, how many miles of roads leading to the said outlying houses—often almost a private road, do the people in the congested part help to keep in repair? At the root of the matter, the needs of the many should be attended to even if at some sacrifice of the few. I trust that before long scavenging of our larger villages will be an accomplished fact.

*Milk.*—On the register of dairies and cowsheds are 111 names, and 24 new applicants waiting to be dealt with immediately. These are kept, with very few exceptions, in a clean state, and are cleansed regularly. For the most part the buildings are of stone, with slate or tile roof, and ventilated either by the "Cumberland Brick," or by the hit and miss window. On the whole, ventilation is well maintained. A few are of wood, with corrugated iron roof, but are not very desirable. Tar as a wash is coming into favour for the lower part of the walls; certainly if it does not look cleaner, it hides the dirt better than limewash. I have, during my period of office, not been able to inspect all these, but amongst those done, I had only to take exception to one, and that with regard to cleaning of milk utensils and the storage room. In most cases, as pointed out by my predecessor, attention requires to be drawn to the nature of the approaches to the byres, as this is often through manure and filth. For such important food stuff as milk no precaution is too great, as if any germs gain access to it, they multiply with enormous rapidity, and may give rise to fatal consequences.

*Slaughter Houses.*—As before reported, there are 31 slaughter houses in the district. Time has not permitted inspection of all these, but nearly all have some defect, which under more extensive powers could be dealt with effectively. At present, little can be done, and I think the matter should be dealt with.

*Hospital.*—The Edgewell Hospital has been working at full pressure since I have been Medical Officer. 84 patients were admitted during the year 1914, of whom 47 were from the Prudhoe Urban Area. Of the 84, 63 were Scarlet Fever, and 21 Diphtheria. Two deaths occurred in Hospital, one from Scarlet Fever, and one from Diphtheria. No difficulty has been experienced in getting patients removed into hospital, the opposite often being the case, and regrets expressed when children cannot be admitted.

*Housing and Town Planning.*—Since taking up my duties with you, I have devoted much time to this important branch of the work, with your Sanitary Inspector. In all 224 Primary Inspections have been carried out—111 at Allendale, 41 at Haydon Bridge, and 72 at Corbridge. As advised by the Housing and Town Planning Committee of the Council, notices have been withheld in most cases during the present state of affairs, but the more urgent cases have been served. Re-inspections numbered 322, and are tabulated as follows, with the nature of defects found :—

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING INSPECTIONS.

### PRIMARY INSPECTIONS.

Allendale,	Haydon Bridge,	Corbridge,	Total.
111	41	72	224

### RE-INSPECTIONS AND DEFECTS.

Defects.	Allendale	Fourstones	Newbrough	Warden	Corbridge	Totals.
Open and Delapidated Ashpit ...	16	17	9	13	104	159
Ashpit and Privy required ...	23	2	...	3	5	33
Defective Yard Surface ...	2	3	...	...	50	55
Defective Drainage ...	...	3	4	17	7	31
Excavation required ...	...	7	...	...	1	8
Dampness ...	...	1	...	...	5	6
Defective Ventilation ...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Defective Spouting ...	...	3	1	1	23	28
Water Closet required ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Totals ...	41	37	14	34	196	322

*WORK DONE.*

Allendale,	Fourstones,	Corbridge,	Total,
19	34	47	100

In the early part of the year, closing orders were obtained for eight houses at Wylam Wood, as being unfit for human habitation. Action here has been deferred, as upon inspection, I found five houses were still occupied, but by old folks, whose young men had enlisted, some even being at the front, and who, under the circumstances, had nothing else to look to but the workhouse for shelter. These will come up before the Council shortly for consideration, and will be dealt with as befits the occasion.

Houses for the working classes are in some parts of the district scarce, particularly in the close proximity to the Prudhoe area, where many of our male population are employed in coal mining. Something approaching overcrowding is also rife in some of the other villages, and sooner or later the Council must make up a scheme to provide extra housing accommodation.

Forty new houses have been built during the year, of which fully half have been for the working classes.

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## NUISANCES, *Etc.*

The following notices have been issued to owners and occupiers of premises, to abate nuisances and repair defects on properties, during the year :—

	Inform- al notices.	Carried out.	Statu- tory notices.	Carried out.
Depositing waste paper by side of public road	1	1		
Provide privy and ashpit ...	6	6	1	
Not to deposit sewage on to or by the side of a public road ...	4	4		
To remove accumulation of ashes in yard ...			1	1
Open out choked drains ...	2	2		
Cleanse yard adjoining house ...	1	1		
Provide proper drainage to premises ...	24	20	15	Nil.
		(served at end of year)		
Roof in ashpits, cement inside walls and floors	12	12	4	4
Cleanse slaughter houses and manure pits ...	6	6	12	12
Provide proper manure pits ...	4	4		
Cease keeping poultry to be a nuisance ...	1	1		
Limewash byres, workshops, etc. ...	2	2	8	8
Relay and repair yard surfaces ...	4	4	1	
Reduce size of ashpit ...			1	1
Repair defective spouting ...	5	1		
Deposit plans in duplicate ...	12	12		
Remedy dampness in houses ...	6	5		
Provide W.C.'s in lieu of privies ...	2	2	1	
Cease depositing ashpit and other refuse near houses and roads ...	14	14	3	3
Cleanse sewage works ...	6	6		
Empty and cleanse privies and ashpits ...	6	6	35	35
Remove ashpit refuse deposited near houses ...	2	2		
Repair defective drains ...	9	9		
Protect water meters ...	4	4		
Trap waste pipes from drains ...	4	4		
Fix trapped inlets to sewage drains ...	6	6		
Disconnect rain-water down-spouts from house drainage ...	2	2		
Provide ventilating shafts on drainage ...	6	6		
Cleanse cesspits ...	4	4		
Close premises unfit for human habitation ...			8	3
Excavate ground to below floor level of house	4	3		
Provide and fix rainwater spouting ..	5	5		
Remove deposits of manure too near houses and public roads ...	3	3	1	1
Cease depositing slaughter house refuse at manure pit ...	2	2		
Remove privy adjoining dwelling house ...	1			
To extend drain to prevent pollution of water supply ..	1	1		
Provide cesspit ...	2	2		
Seal surface water gullies ...	2	2		
Cease depositing liquid into privies ...	2	2		
To connect drains to sewers ...	87	66		
Extend smoke-flue of wash house ...	1	1		
Protect water supply from surface pollution ...	1			
Overcrowding house premises ...			1	1



*Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1914,  
for the Rural District of Hexham.*

**Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.**

**1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.*

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories ... ..	26	2	.....
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops ... ..	71	7	.....
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces ... ..	.....	... ..	.....
Total ... ..	97	9	.....

**2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	...	...
Other nuisances ...	7	7	...	...
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient ...	1	1	...	...
Total ... ..	9	9	...	...

**3.—Home Work.**

Nil.

**4.—Registered Workshops.**

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year, 67.

**5.—Other Matters.**

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901)—

Notified by H.M. Inspector ... .. 6

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.  
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Uncor-rected Num-ber.	Nett.		Num-ber.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of resi-dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.
			Num-ber.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
1909 ...	28,142	734		26.1	383	13.6	3	7	77	104.9	387 13.3
1910 ...	20,368	459		22.5	258	12.6	2	11	28	61.0	267 13.1
1911 ...	21,921	439	439	20.02	250	11.4	5	25	41	93.4	270 12.3
1912 ...	22,045	450	452	20.5	261	11.8	3	21	34	75.2	279 12.6
1913 ...	22,169	417	419	18.9	282	11.3	9	20	30	71.6	293 12.3
					130	11.6	?	?	14	66.6	130 11.6
<b>1914 ...</b>	<b>22,293</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>125 11.2</b>

Area of District in }  
acres (land and }  
inland water) } 196,809 Acres.

Total population at all ages, 21,890

Total families or separate occupiers, 4976

{ At Census, 1911 }

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during July—December, 1914.  
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases Notified.										Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.						Allendale.	Chollerton.	Hexham.				
		Under 15 years	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years				65 and upwards			
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	33	...	6	19	6	2	...	...	..	51216	8			
Erysipelas	14	...	...	1	1	4	4	4	2	8	...			
Scarlet Fever	73	2	11	47	5	8	...	...	162332	2	16			
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	...	...	...	1	7	4	1	3	6	...			
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...			
Totals	138	2	17	68	15	22	8	6	21434529	24				

*Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.* { Edgewell Isolation Hospital, Prudhoe (without the district).  
Lightwater Smallpox Hospital (within district).

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during  
July—December, 1914.

Name of District—Hexham Rural.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.	
				All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
All causes	{	Certified	...	110	9	1	4	3	1	11	34	47		
		Uncertified	...	15	1	1		2	2	2	2	5		
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1			1							
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1			1							
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	3			1	2						
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	13				1			5	6		1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	1						1				
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	1					1					
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	19						1	12	6		
Apoplexy	...	...	...	6							3	3		
Meningitis	...	...	...	3	1						2			
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	20						1	5	14		
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1								1		
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	3						1	1	1		
Other diseases of respiratory organs	...	...	...	5							1	4		
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	5	2	1	1			1				
Senility	...	...	...	9								9		
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	5							1	4		
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	...	...	...	3	3									
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	...	...	9	1	1		1	2	2		2		
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	17	3			1		1	5	7		
Totals				125	10	2	4	5	3	13	36	52	Nil.	

## TABLE IV.

## Hexham Rural District.

## Infant Mortality, July—December, 1914.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages  
under 1 year of age.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 mths & under 6 months.	6 mths & under 9 months.	9 mths & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified ...	2				2	2		5		9
	Uncertified ..								1		1
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )									1		1
Convulsions ...									3		3
Diarrhœa ...							1		1		2
Premature Birth ...							1				1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus		1				1					1
Other Causes...											
(a) Fire ...									1		1
(b) Hæmorrhage from Lung		1				1					1
Totals ...		2				2	2		6		10

Nett Births in the year—Legitimate, 408; Illegitimate, 21.

Nett deaths in the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -year of Legitimate Infants, 9; Illegitimate Infants, 1.

*The War.*—As a result of the war, many residents of the district being members of the Territorial Forces, and a large number of the remainder having enlisted for the period of the war, there has been a scarcity of manual labour. In some of the villages, the depletion of the male population is quite marked.

The clerical staff of the Council has not been depleted in any way, but up to the present three of the Road Surveyors' staffs have joined the colours.

As a secondary result of the war, there has been a large influx of Belgian Refugees into our district, and scattered extensively over it from Riding Mill, westwards. The residences of the Refugees have been inspected from time to time, but little has been required in the way of alterations to existing arrangements, as everyone seems anxious to make their stay amongst us as pleasant and comfortable as possible.

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Such, gentlemen, is my report for my period of office with you, and I trust that its shortcomings will in this instance be pardoned. A large district requires a lot of knowing, and as I have indicated elsewhere, I prefer to know more of it before I discuss matters of such import, and possibly far-reaching effects.

I must take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their assistance rendered in various ways, and to Mr. Nicholson, your Clerk, with whom I must couple his assistant, Mr. Hamilton, my thanks are due for much of their valuable time, given in advice and explanation necessary to a newcomer. As a fellow-worker, my thanks are due to Mr. Waugh, the Sanitary Inspector, whose intimate knowledge of the district and willingness to help have been of inestimable value. In conclusion, I am grateful to my predecessor, Dr. Penfold, as I am likely to reap the benefit of much of his valuable work, which, like good deeds, live after the perpetrator has departed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN STEEDMAN.







*Hexham*  
*Rural District Council.*



REPORT

OF THE

*SANITARY INSPECTOR,*

FOR THE

*YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1914.*



# Hexham Rural District Council.

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COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,  
BEAUMONT STREET,  
HEXHAM,

February, 1915.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with instructions received from the Council, I have again much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1914.

At the undermentioned places the following works have been carried out, viz : —

ACOMB.—Garden House Farm. At these premises entirely new drainage has been put in, and a cesspit provided, also new outoffices. The drainage formerly discharged into the burn adjoining the above.

At house in main road, owned by Mr. G. Charlton, a new privy and ashpit has been provided.

During the dry weather this summer, the water supply to this village became very low in the service tank, and the water had to be turned off, so as to give the high-lying premises a share of the supply. The Parochial Committee are taking steps to have the supply increased, having had several samples tested.

The work of providing sewers and sewage disposal works at the above is a very slow process. The burn adjoining a large number of houses was in a very offensive state for many weeks this last summer and autumn, owing to the dry season.

ALLENDALE.—At five house premises in Shield Street, new w.c.'s have been provided in lieu of very offensive privies ; and where tenants of houses used one outoffice adjoining the main public road, this has now been discontinued to be used as such.

At The Dene, new outoffices have been provided to a cottage, where they were very delapidated and abutting on to a public road.

At Catton Lane Foot, Chapel House, a new w.c. and coal-house have been erected, drain provided, walls of house pointed, and spouting repaired.

At houses owned by Lord Allendale at the above, new E.C.'s have been provided, in place of a very insanitary privy next a road, which discharged its refuse into a watercourse there, thus abating the pollution of a watercourse complained of in the County Medical Officer of Health's Report.

At a house in Catton, owned by Mr. Forster, a w.c., new drainage, and cesspit, have been provided, where previously no drainage existed.

At Batey's and Walton's Terraces in Catton, new drainage has been put in and connected to the main sewer there. Floors of shop and house relaid; roofs and rainwater spouting renewed; walls of houses pointed; cement footpaths provided; soil excavated from the walls of houses; and new E.C.'s and ashpits erected, where wood privies existed before, and some of these houses had no outoffice accommodation whatever.

At Wilson Place, Catton, the yard areas of two houses have been relaid in cement, walls rebuilt, ashpits roofed in, inside walls and floors cemented out, rain-water spouting repaired, and walls pointed.

BROOMLEY.—At Brettonby Terrace, the main sewer became choked with refuse, and flooded one of the houses. A new manhole has been put in, and a manhole at the highest point of this sewer converted into a flushing chamber.

At Branch End, a sewer there having become choked, was ranged from end to end, and is now in working order.

At South Parade, two new w.c.'s have been provided in lieu of privies, which latter have ceased to exist.

Notice boards have been erected at two public watering places, notifying the public that the water is not fit for domestic purposes. Two notice boards have also been fixed at Alexandra and Meadow Field Terraces, warning people not to deposit any ashes or other refuse in the back roads there.

At Birches Nook Cottages, the main drain, after a heavy fall of rain, became choked. It was opened out and cleared, and is now in a satisfactory state of repair.

At the blacksmith's premises situated east of Stocksfield Station, a new drain has been provided and connected to the main sewer adjoining premises.

The extension of the sewerage scheme to Ridley Mill, Old Ridley, Painshawfield, and New Ridley, having now been practically completed, about 68 house premises have been connected to the main sewers, thus doing away with a large number of objectionable cesspits, and also the abating of a long-standing nuisance of an open sewer by the side of the main road at New Ridley.

BARRASFORD.—The sewage works here have been very satisfactorily completed, and will be the means of preventing a pollution of the North Tyne River. All the houses in the village have their drainage connected to the main sewers.

GUNNERTON.—The sewage works and main sewer extension have been done satisfactorily here. This will provide for the sewage of various premises which have not previously had any drainage, owing to there being no sewer to connect to, and the ground not suitable to put in cesspits.

CORBRIDGE.—At Watling Street Laundry, a new w.c. and ash-pit have been provided, in lieu of very offensive and dilapidated outoffices.

In St. Helen's Street, several backyards have been relaid in cement concrete, and ash-pits repaired and cemented out.

In the Market Place, at two houses owned by Mr. Fairless, new outoffices have been erected, and a w.c. proposed to be built for another house.

Two house backyards in Hill Street, owned by Mr. Thirlwell, have been relaid in cement concrete.

In Main Street, at houses owned by Messrs. McKenzie, Charlton, and Greenwell, the backyard surfaces have been repaired, and open ash-pits roofed in.

At Princes Street, two houses owned by Mr. Middlemiss, the ash-pits have been roofed in. At five houses owned by Messrs. Dalton and Hogarth, the main drain has been extended the full length of the property, and each house provided with drainage; all the open ash-pits roofed in, and inside walls and floors cemented. At two houses owned by Mr. Coulson, the open ash-pit has been roofed in, and inside walls and floor cemented.

At Hill Street, at two houses owned by the Exors. of the late Miss Pears, the ash-pits have been roofed in and the inside walls cemented. At a house owned by Mr. Thirlwell, the backyard has been relaid in cement concrete.

At the school premises, Spring Field, the drains have been repaired, trapped gullies fixed where found to be open inlets to drains, and rain-water downspouts disconnected from the drains and made to discharge on to trapped gullies.

The Public Watering Places in this village require to be kept in a more cleanly state. These are very useful for the watering of cattle, horses, etc. The manhole covers, hydrant and valve surface boxes, should also be cleared, as when required at short notice, they are not good to find when covered with dirt, etc. Someone should be appointed to do the above work periodically.

HAYDON.—At Innerhaugh Buildings, Ratcliffe Road, a w.c. has been provided to a house owned by Mrs. Walton, Linton House.

At South View, at house owned by Mr. Gibson, Grindon Hill, a w.c. has replaced a privy.

At The Craggs, owned by Mr. Willans, the drains have been nearly all relaid, and joints made up with spun-yarn and cement.

At a semi-villa on the Brigwood Estate, owned by Mr. Turnbull, an entirely new drainage system has been put down. This drain discharges into a cesspit, as no sewer is available. This work has abated a nuisance near a footpath leading to this estate.

At Alexandra House, Pool Dale Estate, owned by Mr. Henderson, the old drain of field drain tiles was taken up, and a proper glazed sanitary pipe drain put in, and connected to the main sewer adjoining. This abated a long-standing nuisance, as the old drain discharged into the large surface water conduit, which conveys the water from the bankside, N.

At West Elrington and Chesterwood Farm and hamlets, the whole of the outoffices have been roofed in, cemented, etc., and additional privy accommodation at both places provided.

At Peel Well Farm and Heugh House Cottages, owned by J. E. Rogerson, Esq., new outoffices have been provided in lieu of the very dilapidated ones which existed.

The new water supply continues to give every satisfaction. During the year, nine connections have been made to farm and house premises.

The three back roads previously reported on continue in the same very unsatisfactory condition. Notices to remove refuse deposited there has been served on several of the occupiers.

**HEDLEY.**—Several owners of cottage property here have repaired the outoffices, provided new ashpit and re-roofed two cottages which were in a damp state, and also provided rain-water spouting and drainage.

The sewage works continue to give off a good effluent, and every attention is given to these works.

**HORSLEY.**—The extensions to the main sewers and sewage works have been carried out very satisfactorily. This will be the means of much cottage property being provided with drainage which have not had any previously, the owners having been served with notices to do so.

**HUMSHAUGH.**—At the Post Office buildings, a defective main sewer has been taken up and properly relaid, and an inspection chamber put in where two drains join the main sewer. A main-hole is required to be put in on the public road opposite the above premises, where this sewer joins the main sewer.

At Shinee Row Cottages the main sewer became choked, and on being opened, one of the sanitary pipes was found to be broken. This was reinstated, and is now in a satisfactory state. The owner's agent of the above remedied defects in the drainage, and cemented an area out next to a cellar of a cottage. A manhole was also put in where the two sewers join in the public road.

Miss Taylor, the owner of several houses in the village, has had the ashpits roofed in, inside walls and floors cemented, and privies repaired.

At houses owned by Mr. Potts, the outoffices have been repaired and put into proper order.

The water supply to this village continues to give fair satisfaction.

NEWBROUGH. — At the house adjoining the Mechanics' Institute, new drainage has been provided and connected to the main sewer, and the backyard surface relaid in asphalt, which has been the means of making this property much drier.

At Red House Cottages, owned by Messrs. Benson, new outoffices have been erected in lieu of very offensive ones which existed formerly. A new wash-house has also been erected for the tenants of these cottages, which is an improvement in the right direction, as all such premises should have such a convenience.

At Crossgate Road, a section of the main open sewer and water-course combined has been piped in for a distance of about seventy yards. This will abate a nuisance near two houses situated near this sewer. The other portion of the main open sewer is kept quite clear of refuse, being periodically cleansed out, and all refuse carted away to a suitable depôt.

At Allerwash Mill, a water supply has been laid on to the dwelling house. This being a dairy farm, it is a very great convenience in regard to the cleansing of milk utensils, etc. A new byre has also been provided for the tenant.

OVINGHAM. — At premises owned by the Duke of Northumberland, three new manure pits have been erected, where previously the manure was deposited too near dwelling houses.

At houses owned by the late W. Bedlington, and —. Hinde, new outoffices have been provided, and the existing ones repaired and put into proper order.

The sewage works at the west of village are now kept in a clean state, and give off a good effluent.

The sewage works at the east do not give entire satisfaction, whether it is from the enclosed site or the filtering medium not being so satisfactory as might be. The work of suggesting some improvements has been left to Mr. Murphy, engineer, who will examine and report what should be done.

At the school and school-house premises, the drainage has been practically relaid very satisfactorily. A ventilating shaft has been erected on the highest point of drains, and a waste-pipe trapped and made to discharge on to a trapped gully. The floors of the two sitting rooms of the school-house, which were flags, have been taken up, and relaid in wood, and proper air-grates put in. This work has made the house dry, where formerly it was in a very damp state.

OVINGTON. — At the Highlander Inn, the drain from the urinal was choked, and when opened out was found to be composed of field drain tiles, and leaking, of course, at every pipe. This was relaid with glazed sanitary pipes jointed with cement. Since this work was carried out, the inside house walls are in a much drier state than previously.



The drain at the east end of the green near the school, which carries the sewage from the Hall Farm house, byres, stables, etc., and also from the cottages there, having been broken, and causing a very offensive nuisance, the owner's agent has been given notice to have this drain relaid at a safe depth for traffic to pass over. This work will, I am informed, be taken in hand at once and completed.

RIDING.—The work of providing a new water supply, to the houses on the north side of the main road at Riding Mill, owned by Mrs. Guiry, has been completed.

The sewerage scheme will be shortly carried out, as this work has been let to a contractor to do, and will be the means of abating a very large section of river pollution complained of for some time.

At Red Hemmels Farm, owned by Mr. Blackburn, Dipton Foot, the farm house has been repaired, part new floors relaid, roof repaired, new drainage put in and carried to a cesspool in grass field, new rain-water spouting fixed, and outoffices provided in lieu of very insanitary ones which existed.

WARDEN.—At Fourstones Farm, new outoffices have been erected, at two houses owned by Major Clayton.

At the Co-operative Terrace of four houses, the two ashpits have been reduced in size and roofed in, the untrapped or badly trapped gullies have been replaced by proper trapped openings to the main drain.

At the Co-operative premises, new outoffices have been provided, in lieu of the very insanitary ones which existed.

WYLAM.—At the Wylam Wood Farm Cottage, the ashpit has been roofed in, and inside walls and floor cemented.

At Cherry Tree House, owned by Col. Blackett, the ground has been excavated at the back and west side of dwelling house, and a new w.c. and drainage provided.

At Florist Hall, same owner, a w.c. and part new drainage has been put in.

The main sewer in tillage field at N. Wylam became choked, causing a flooding of this field. It was opened out and repaired.

At the Black Bull Inn, owned by the Exors. of the late W. Bedlington, a proper manure pit has been erected.

At the river bank, Tyne View, N. Wylam, a notice board has been fixed, notifying people not to deposit any ashes or other refuse there. I trust it will have the desired effect in abating this nuisance.

WHITTINGTON GREAT.—The work of providing a water supply to this place is being carried out under the supervision of Mr. Murphy, engineer, Morpeth. It will be a great convenience to the



inhabitants of the village having a proper water supply provided, and more particularly to the school premises, the present supply being such a distance away, and liable to surface pollution.

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### *Isolation Hospitals.*

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EDGEWELL.—A new water supply has been laid on to these premises, taken from the Newcastle and Gateshead Co.'s mains, recently put in adjoining the hospital. The backyard has been relaid in cement, which is the means of making the rooms cleaner, and a wash-up sink and range put in. The rain-water tanks have been re-arranged, and there is now a good storage of this water.

LIGHTWATER.—The sewage works have been cleansed and emptied, the rain-water spouting repaired, the fence around grounds repaired, and the ram kept in order. This hospital, I am pleased to report, has not had a patient in it since erected.

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## *Nuisances, Etc.*

The following notices have been issued to owners and occupiers of premises, to abate nuisances and repair defects on properties, during the year :—

	Inform- al notices.	Carried out.	Statu- tory notices.	Carried out.
Depositing waste paper by side of public road	1	1		
Provide privy and ashpit ... ..	6	6	1	
Not to deposit sewage on to or by the side of a public road ... ..	4	4		
To remove accumulation of ashes in yard ... ..			1	1
Open out choked drains ... ..	2	2		
Cleanse yard adjoining house ... ..	1	1		
Provide proper drainage to premises ... ..	24	20	15	Nil.
		(served at end of year)		
Roof in ashpits, cement inside walls and floors	12	12	4	4
Cleanse slaughter houses and manure pits ... ..	6	6	12	12
Provide proper manure pits ... ..	4	4		
Cease keeping poultry to be a nuisance ... ..	1	1		
Limewash byres, workshops, etc. ... ..	2	2	8	8
Relay and repair yard surfaces ... ..	4	4	1	
Reduce size of ashpit ... ..			1	1
Repair defective spouting ... ..	5	1		
Deposit plans in duplicate ... ..	12	12		
Remedy dampness in houses ... ..	6	5		
Provide W.C.'s in lieu of privies ... ..	2	2	1	
Cease depositing ashpit and other refuse near houses and roads ... ..	14	14	3	3
Cleanse sewage works ... ..	6	6		
Empty and cleanse privies and ashpits ... ..	6	6	35	35
Remove ashpit refuse deposited near houses ... ..	2	2		
Repair defective drains ... ..	9	9		
Protect water meters ... ..	4	4		
Trap waste pipes from drains ... ..	4	4		
Fix trapped inlets to sewage drains ... ..	6	6		
Disconnect rain-water down-spouts from house drainage ... ..	2	2		
Provide ventilating shafts on drainage ... ..	6	6		
Cleanse cesspits ... ..	4	4		
Close premises unfit for human habitation ... ..			4	1
Excavate ground to below floor level of house ... ..	4	3		
Provide and fix rainwater spouting ... ..	5	5		
Remove deposits of manure too near houses and public roads ... ..	3	3	1	1
Cease depositing slaughter house refuse at manure pit ... ..	2	2		
Remove privy adjoining dwelling house ... ..	1			
To extend drain to prevent pollution of water supply ... ..	1	1		
Provide cesspit ... ..	2	2		
Seal surface water gullies ... ..	2	2		
Cease depositing liquid into privies ... ..	2	2		
To connect drains to sewers ... ..	87	66		
Extend smoke-flue of wash house ... ..	1	1		
Protect water supply from surface pollution ... ..	1			
Overcrowding house premises ... ..			1	1

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## 1914.

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The following Plans were submitted and approved of, at the Meetings of the Sewage, Building, and Water Works Committee.

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### *January 27th.*

Plans of additions and alterations to a house, at the Main Road, Acomb, for Mr. G. Charlton, Acomb.

Plans of a villa, on the Painslawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Ferrier Bros., builders and contractors, Stocksfield.

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### *February 24th.*

Plans of additions and alterations, drainage, and outoffices, at Garden House Farm, Acomb, for Miss Allgood, The Hermitage, Hexham.

Plans of new outoffices, at North Side, Horsley, for the Duke of Northumberland.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Simonburn Cottage, Hunsingh, for the Evans' Trustees, per Mr. Welton, agent.

Plans of additions and alterations to a cottage, at the Bush Farm, near Haydon Bridge, for J. C. Straker, Esq., The Leazes, Hexham.

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### *March 24th.*

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Catton Lane Foot, Allendale, for R. Chambers, Esq., per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of a pantry and w.c., at No. 2, South Parade, Stocksfield, for T. L. Waugh, Esq.

Plans of a bedroom, at Shildon, near Corbridge, for W. Cochrane, Esq.

Plans of a scullery and porch, at Marley Cote Walls, near Slaley, for G. Baynes, Esq.

Plans of a cottage, at Shildon Grange, near Corbridge, for Mr. Sample, land agent, Matfen, Corbridge.

Plans of a sewage disposal works, at The Hall, Allenheads, for Lord Allendale.

Plans of two semi-villas, at New Ridley, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. Miller, New Ridley, Stocksfield.

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### *April 21st.*

Plans of a golf club house, at field in Batt House Road, Stocksfield, for the Stocksfield Golf Club, per Mr. Gazzini, builder, Stocksfield.

Plans of a farm house, smithy, horse boxes, piggeries, etc., at The Colpitts, near Slaley, for C. S. Hunting, Esq., Slaley Hall.

Plans of a temporary bothy, at Slaley Hall Estate, for Middlemiss Bros., contractors, &c., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a cottage, at Newton Hall Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. Eltringham, West Lodge, Newton Hall, Stocksfield.

Plans of additions and alterations to a farm house, at Shilford Farm, near Riding Mill; conversion of a mill into two cottages, at Dilston Mill, near Corbridge; additions and alterations to cottages, at Dilston Haugh Farm, near Corbridge; and two houses at sites east of Station, Stocksfield, for Lord Allendale, Bywell Hall, Stocksfield.

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### *May 19th.*

Plans of a kitchen, at the Post Office, Main Road, N. Wylam, for Mr. Reeves.

Plans of alterations to farm buildings at North Farm, Hedley-on-the-Hill, for the Duke of Northumberland.

Plans of two houses, at New Ridley, Stocksfield, for Mr. H. Dodd.

Plans of a golf club house, at Batt House Road, Stocksfield, for the Stocksfield Golf Club.

Plans of additions and alterations to a farm house, at Broomley Farm, near Riding Mill, for the Small Holdings Committee, Northumberland County Council, Moothall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a villa, at the Hall Farm, Stocksfield, for Dr. Naismith, South Parade, Stocksfield.

Plans of two cottages, at sites near West Lodge, Minsteracres, for —. Silvertop, Esq.

Plans of ten houses, at the Drift Field, near Acomb, for Mr. R. G. Smith, Howford Brick Works, Acomb.

Plans of byres, etc., at Colpitts Farm, near Slaley, for C. S. Hunting, Esq., Slaley Hall.

Plans of alterations and additions to farm buildings, at Trygill Farm, near Slaley, for C. S. Hunting, Esq., Slaley Hall.

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### *June 16th.*

Plans for converting a Wesleyan Church into a cottage, at Sproats' Farm, near Whittonstall, for Capt. J. F. Laycock, D.S.O.

Plans of two houses, at the Main Road, Whittonstall, for Capt. J. F. Laycock, D.S.O.

Plans of a lodge cottage, at Slaley Hall, near Slaley, for C. S. Hunting, Esq.

Plans of two cottages, at Colpitts Farm, near Slaley, for C. S. Hunting, Esq., Slaley Hall.

Plans of three houses, at the Main Road East, Ovingham, for Messrs. Wright & Dawson, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of a villa, at the Broomley Estate, near Riding Mill, for Mr. G. C. Kirtley.

Plans of a villa, at Stockfield, for Dr. Naismith, South Parade, Stockfield.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stockfield, for Mr. Duncan.

Plans of a farm house and buildings, on the Broomley Estate, near Riding Mill, for the Small Holdings Committee, the Northumberland County Council, Moothall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a Primitive Methodist Church, at Sparty Lea, Main Road, Allenheads, Allendale, for the Trustees of the P.M. Church.

Plans of a house, in Shield Street, Allendale Town, for Mr. P. Hetherington, joiner.

Plans of a w.c. in Shield Street, Allendale Town, for Mr. T. Bell, draper.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Shildon Grange, Corbridge, for Mr. Sample, land agent, 29, Grainger Street West, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a farm house, at Nettle Hill, Allendale, for Henderson & Philipson, per Mr. Davidson, land agent, Haydon Bridge.

Plans of improvements to a cottage, at Peel Well Farm, Haydon Bridge, and to a cottage at Heugh House Lane, Haydon Bridge, for J. E. Rogerson, Esq., per Mr. Davidson, land agent, Haydon Bridge.

Plans of a w.c. at Shield Street, Allendale Town, for Mr. Duncan, chemist, Allendale Town.

### *July 14th.*

Plans of a villa, on the Painshawfield Estate, Stockfield, for Mr. Wardle, Prospect Terrace, Prudhoe.

Plans of additions and alterations to a farm house and buildings, at Sparty Lea, Main Road, Allenheads, Allendale, for Lord Allendale, Bywell Hall, Stockfield.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Dilston Villa, near Corbridge, for Mr. Riehley, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

### *September 8th.*

Plans of a byre, at Piatroon Farm, Allendale, for Mr. C. Harrison.

Plans of a cottage, at Woodbine Cottages, near Newbrough, for Mr. Lairlaw, Stonecroft House, Fourstones.

### *October 6th.*

Plans of a byre, at Haggburn Gate Farm, Allendale, for the Exors. of the late J. Nevin, Littlemoor, Mirfield, Yorkshire.

Plans of additions and alterations to a reading room, at Bridge End, Ovingham, for the Trustees, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of additions and alterations at two cottages, at Main Road, Stagshaw House Estate, near Corbridge, for A. H. Straker, Esq., Stagshaw House, Corbridge.

Plans of additions and alterations to a cottage at Corner Field, near Slaley, for Sidney Carter, Esq., The Glen, Slaley, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of a coal house, cart shed, and E.C., at Blackclough Farm, West Allen, for Messrs. Lockhart, solicitors, Hexham.

Plans of additions and alterations to an engine house, at Sandhoe, near Hexham, for J. H. Noble, Esq.

### *November 3rd.*

Plans of additions and alterations to a lodge cottage at Styford, and a coal house and outoffices at Broxbushes Farm, near Corbridge, for Miss Bacon Grey, Styford, Corbridge.

### *December 1st.*

Plans of additions and alterations to cottages, at Front Street, Corbridge, for Mr. Davison, builder.

Plans of a motor house, at New Ridley, Stockfield, for Mr. Murray, New Ridley, Stockfield.

Plans of a w.c., at Strathyre, near Stockfield, for T. A. Jones, Esq.

## *River Pollution.*

### *Re the Reports of the County Medical Officer of Health.*

The provision of new sewage works at Sandhoe, Barrasford, and Gunnerton, and the extension of the main sewers at Broomley, Sandhoe, and Gunnerton, will have the effect of abating several cases of river pollution. The drainage of various premises into the main sewer at Haydon Bridge will also assist in this work.

The districts of Riding Mill and Broomlaugh will in the near future be provided with extra main sewers and sewage disposal works, which will remedy a large number of river pollutions complained of.

At Oakwood, a very objectionable sewage works has been discontinued since the new sewers and sewage disposal works have been carried out.

## *Sewage Disposal Works.*

There are 14 of these installations in the following Parishes of the Rural District, viz:—Allendale, 4; Broomley, 1; Chollerton—Barrasford, 1; Gunnerton, 1; Corbridge, 1; Haydon, 1; Hedley, 1; Ovingham, 2; Sandhoe or Anick, 1; and Wall, 1.



These have been frequently inspected and found to be kept in a clean state by the sewer attendants employed. At Ovingham, the east sewage works have been complained of. The effluent is discharged by the side of the river bed, where the stream does not reach unless the river is in flood, and during the dry weather gave off a certain amount of smell. These works are situated much too near dwelling houses. They are in a very enclosed position, being surrounded by trees, instead of having an open aspect where the winds could get at them.

### *Slaughter Houses.*

There are 31 of these in various parts of the Rural District, and they have been inspected from time to time. Notices have been served on the occupiers of some of them not to deposit the slaughter house refuse into manure pits, to cleanse their premises, and linewash the inside walls of buildings, which have been complied with.

### *Dairies and Cowsheds.*

There are 111 on the register, and 24 applications for registration. As reported upon previously, they continue to be kept in a very clean state, particular attention being given to having the byres, etc., lime-washed at stated times. A new water supply was put in for a dairy farm, new windows fixed in an existing byre, floors of byres relaid, and manure pit walls and floors repaired as required.

### *Carbide of Calcium, and Petrol and Petroleum Licences.*

During the year, 47 and 15 licenses respectively of the above have been granted and renewed. The buildings and surroundings where carbide and petrol are stored have been inspected, to see that the stores are kept according to the regulations.

The premises are situated in the following Parishes, viz :—Acomb, 2 ; Allendale, 11 ; Broomley, 11 ; Choilerton, 2 ; Corbridge, 5 ; Dilston, 1 ; Haydon, 5 ; Humshaugh, 4 ; Horsley, 1 ; Hallington, 1 ; Newbrough, 2 ; Newton, 2 ; Ovingham, 1 ; Riding, 1 ; Sandhoe, 2 ; Shotley, 2 ; Sleafy, 1 ; Simonburn, 1 ; Warden, 3 ; Great Whittington, 1 ; and Wylam, 3.

### *New Houses and House Drainage.*

During the year, 40 new houses have been occupied, being 21 more than in 1913. The majority of these—27—are in the Wylam district. Ten houses are being erected in the Rural area.



The drainage of 51 houses have been tested before being filled in, and, where found faulty through leaky joints, broken or cracked pipes, they were repaired and tested again before being covered.

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## *Disinfecting and Fumigation.*

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Several schools have been closed where infectious disease had broken out, and dwelling houses and contents have been fumigated after the patients were removed to hospital, or when convalescent, and in regard to school premises, before they re-opened. During the year, 307 cases of disinfectants have been given out, these being used in the drains, and for mixing with the water when washing clothes, floors, furniture, etc. The use of Formalin lamps is being introduced for the fumigation of rooms, schools, etc.

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## *Factories and Workshops.*

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There are 24 of the former and 67 of the latter on the register. All notices served on the owners and occupiers of these premises to make some alterations to buildings, provide w.c., linewash walls of buildings, and cleanse premises, have been carried out. On inspecting the various Factories and Workshops, I find they are kept in a very clean state.

### FACTORIES :—

Dye Works, 1 ; Paper Mill, 1 ; Iron Works, 1 ; Sanitary Ware and Pipe Works, 3 ; Brick and Tile Works, 3 ; Whin Quarries, 3 ; Sawmills, 4 ; Stonedressing, 1 ; Engineering Works, 2 ; Breweries, 2 ; Flour Mills, 3.

### WORKSHOPS :—

Tailors, 15 ; Dressmakers, 3 ; Joiners, 13 ; Saddlers, 3 ; Bottling Stores, 1 ; Milliners, 2 ; Blacksmiths, 13 ; Laundries, 3 ; Cycle Repairing, 2 ; Bootmaking, 5 ; Bakeries, 4 ; Painters, 3.

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## *Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.*

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In conjunction with Dr. Penfold and Dr. Steedman, 160 house and cottage premises have been inspected during the year under this Act, and many defective outoflices, rain-water spoutings, drainage, damp houses, etc., found. Informal notices have been served on the owners of such premises to have the defects remedied, and nuisances abated. On re-inspecting these premises we found some had been done, but in the large majority of cases nothing had been attempted in the way suggested by such notices.

# Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

Tabular Statement as required by Article 5.

Sanitary District. Hexham Rural.	No. of dwelling houses inspected.	No. of dwelling houses which, on inspection, considered unfit for human habitation, wholly or partly.	No. of representations made to local author- ity with a view to clos- ing orders being made.	Closing Orders.		No. of dwellings in which defects remedied without closing orders being made.	No. of dwellings put into fit state for human habitation after closing orders made.	General character of defects found.	Any other information.
				No. of orders made.	No. of houses vacated at end of each year in consequence.				
1. <i>Allendale</i>	111	2	2	2		19	2	Overcrowding. Defective yard surfaces.	
2. <i>Corbridge</i>	169					47		Open ashpits. Defective spouting. Dampness.	
3. <i>Haydon</i>	11							Soil abutting against walls. W.C.'s required.	
4. <i>Fourstones</i>						31			
5. <i>Wylam</i>	8	8	8	4	1				
<i>Total for whole District</i>	329	10	10	6	1	100	2		

GENTLEMEN,

In conclusion, I have again to thank the Concellors and Council Officers, who have so kindly assisted me in my various duties, during service with the Rural District Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. WAUGH.



